

## Family STROMBIDAE.

Genus VARICOSPIRA Eames, 1951.

*Varicospira lee*, sp. nov.

Shell small, elegantly pointed oval, spire about equal to the aperture, whorls seven adult plus two nepionic, slightly convex, apex acute, spire conical, tri-varicose, aperture small pointed oval, very strongly variced externally with heavily reinforced columella anteriorly, canaliculate at each end. Dead shell dirty brownish-white; living (Mrs. Woolacott's specimen) a beautiful honey brown, the last whorl showing three darker bands, more noticeable on the outer varix. The apex consists of two glassy whorls, the succeeding whorls being sculptured by narrow elevated longitudinal ribs with the broadish intervals crossed by close incised lines which do not cut the longitudinals, but produce a superficial cancellation. On the face of the body-whorl thirteen ribs may be counted while the linear incisions vary about twenty. The varices are normally three, but these are not all pronounced, sometimes only one or two being marked, on each whorl. Two extraordinary features characterize the shell, both concerning the aperture and the figures will show these better than any description: first, the columella which is heavily reinforced and reflected, more boldly towards the anterior canal, where it forms a large pad and is produced and reverted so that it is not clearly visible in the figures. Anteriorly it is laid on thickly on the preceding whorls travelling upwards two whorls, then abruptly crossing the suture halfway and as abruptly descending more than a whorl. As the outer lip has followed this procedure, an open channel appears all the way. The outer lip is most complexly varicose, very broad, showing strong ridges—almost twofold inside the aperture, while internally the ridges are even stronger and cut by deep incisions, practically following the body-whorl sculpture but separated from it by a deep gutter. There is a situation in the form of the outer lip towards the anterior canal separated by a slight projection, the canal itself long and narrow. Altogether it is a very remarkable little shell. Length, 34 mm., breadth 12 mm., interior of aperture about 10 mm. by 4 mm. Type locality, Torres Straits, North Queensland. Also Darwin, North Australia, and New Guinea (Mrs. Woolacott's Collection). The name *Varicospira* was proposed by Eames (Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. Lond. 236 B, 2, 70, 1951) for the fossil *Strombus cancellatus* Lamarck.

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## A New Gudgeon from the New Hebrides

(Pisces Gobiomoridae).

By GILBERT P. WHITLEY, F.R.Z.S.

(Contribution from the Australian Museum.)

Lee Woolacott, one of the founders of this "Marine Zoologist," loved beautiful things: shells; corals, small fishes and other marine life gave her endless pleasure both in the field and in collections.

It seems fitting therefore for a very beautiful little marine gudgeon to be named in her memory. It has been in the Australian Museum collection for more than forty years unidentified and unique, no other specimen having come to hand.

It belongs to the genus *Eviota* Jenkins, 1903, of which some authors consider *Trimma* Jordan and Seale, 1906, to be a synonym or a subgenus.

The new gudgeon differs from the nominal species and subspecies of *Eviota* and *Trimma* (listed below) in fin- and scale-counts and coloration, in lacking predorsal scales, and in having a conic rather than a snub head. The superficial facies of the new species is rather like a blenny of the *Tripterygium* group.

In alphabetical order the named species and subspecies of *Eviota* and *Trimma* are: *Eviota abax* Jordan & Snyder, *afelei* Jordan & Seale, *Trimma caesiura* J. & S., *Eviota distigma* J. & S., *epiphanes* Jenkins, *Trimma eviotops* Schultz, *Eviota grammistes* Tomiyama, *gymnocephalus* Weber, *herrei* J. & S., *inutilis* Whitley, *lachdeberiei* Giltay, *macrophthalmus* Tomiyama, *miniata* (Seale), *Trimma naudei* Smith, *Eviota nigriventris* Giltay, *okinawae* Aoyagi, *prasina* (Klunzinger), *prasites* J. & S., *pruinosa* J. & S., *queenslandica* Whitley, *saipanensis* Fowler, *sealei* Herre, *sebreei* and *smaragdus* J. & S., *viridis* (Waite), *woolacottae* sp. nov., and *zonura* J. & S.

Genus EVIOTA Jenkins, 1903.

*Eviota* Jenkins, Bull. U.S. Fish. Comm. xxii, 1902 (July 23, 1903), p. 501.  
Haplotype, *E. epiphanes* Jenkins.

*Allogobius* Waite, Rec. Austr. Mus. v, March 11, 1904, p. 176.  
Haplotype, *A. viridis* Waite.

? *Trimma* Jordan and Seale, Bull. U.S. Bur. Fish. xxv, Dec. 15, 1906, p. 391.  
Orthotype, *T. caesiura* Jordan and Seale.

EVIOTA WOOLACOTTAE, sp. nov.

(Figure 1.)

D. vi/i, 7; A. i, 7; P. 18; V. i, 5; C. 14 main rays. Sc. 22 from head to hypural joint. Tr. 8 on body to 6 on caudal peduncle. No predorsal scales.

Head (13 mm.) 3.2, depth (10) 4.2 in standard length (42). Eye (5) 2.6, length of pectoral (13) 1, height of spinous dorsal (7) 1.8 in head. Base of second dorsal fin, 7 mm., equal to that of anal. Length of caudal, 12.

Head rather conic, naked. Rows of papillae around chin and preoperculum, across cheek and down front of operculum; mucous canals around eyes and preoperculum. Eyes large, interorbital very narrow. Preoperculum spineless. Maxilla reaches below front of eye. Teeth fine, acute, in bands; outer row of lower jaw enlarged and hooked. Tongue truncately rounded. Gill-opening extending below not as far forward as level of preoperculum.



Figure 1.—Gudgeon, *Eviota woolacottae* Whitley. Holotype. New Hebrides.  
Photo.—A. A. Racek.

Body with large ctenoid scales extending over pectoral base and breast. Genital papilla long and finger-like, not bifid. Predorsal length (15 mm.) less than distance from first dorsal origin to posterior dorsal axil. Dorsal fins separate; first, and second spines longest. Anal lobe pointed, nearly reaching caudal. Pectorals pointed, without modified rays. Ventrals separate, fringed, fifth ray longest, not reaching anal origin. Caudal rounded.

Colour, after more than forty years preservation in alcohol, yellowish-brown, the fins lighter. Head, body and fins (except anal) with spaced, conspicuous, rusty brown spots in about six longitudinal rows. A large brown spot on middle of side near root of tail and less conspicuous ones along middle of sides of body; two others on proximal parts of pectoral rays. A black blotch between first two dorsal spines. On top of snout a mark like a tuning-fork or letter Y with the prongs facing backwards. Eye blue.

Described from the unique holotype, a specimen 55 mm. or 2.2 inches in total length. Australian Museum regd. No. I.14128.

*Loc.*—New Hebrides. Collected by Dr. A. D. C. Cummins and Staff Paymaster P. B. Stevens, R.N., of H.M.S. "Pegasus" probably about 1916.

Named after the late Mrs. Leone Hermione Woolacott, who died August 4, 1957. An obituary notice by Miss Joyce Allan appeared in the *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia*, i, 1957, p. 48.

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## Memories

A highlight of one of our collecting holidays on North Keppel Island (Queensland) in August 1954, was to have the pleasure and benefit of Mrs. Lee Woolacott's company.

She worked hard at teaching us to identify shells, and her ability to recognise and name most specimens found there, was amazing.

It is a sad thought that she is lost to us, though we are left with happy memories. One of those memories is of a lovely sunshiny afternoon when she and I went over the hill and through the scrub on our way towards Considine Beach. All the way we were followed by a friendly little pig grunting chummily. He was really a nice little pig but my friend did not appreciate his company and was glad to lose him when we climbed down onto the shore.

We worked our way round the rocks back to the huts. Mrs. Woolacott was delighted when we found two or three live *Thais ambustulata*. There had been some doubt about its being so far north, she said.

We, and her other friends at Yeppoon will remember her with gratitude.

MOLLIE BOWMAN.